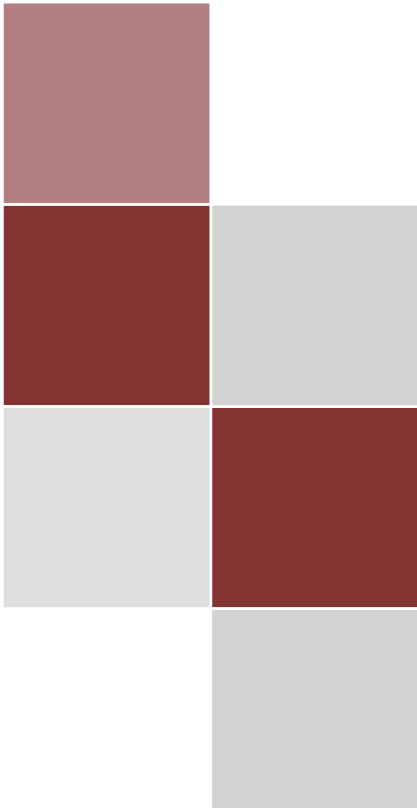




ILRI

INTERNATIONAL  
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH  
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# Personal security advice for ILRI staff and visitors to Kenya Northern Rift Valley

August 2012

## Area

The area of North Rift Valley covers all the Turkana Districts as well as West Pokot Districts, these are: (Loitokitok, Loima, Marakwet East, Marakwet West, Pokot Central, Turkana North, Turkana South, Turkana Central, Turkana East, Turkana West, West Pokot Districts). The capital town of West Pokot, Kapenguria is considered safer than the rest of the area and there is no need of armed escort between Kitale and Kapenguria. All travel by road north of Kapenguria require armed police escort.

## General Rules for the area

- When travelling in certain areas, it is mandatory that you travel at all times with an armed escort.
- Non-UN armed and uniformed personnel are not allowed to travel in ILRI marked vehicles.
- Never travel after 1800hrs. If you **MUST** travel, you obtain approval from your Theme Director.
- Ensure that you are always back at your base or overnight location before sunset.
- When you depart your base or overnight location, ensure that you have reported your plan to the designated ILRI Control Room.
- If travelling during darkness you are required to radio calls every 15 minutes.
- Movements during the night in the towns are strongly discouraged. If it is extremely urgent, always ensure you are accompanied by another person and/or seek advice from the local police before movement.
- Do not carry large sums of money when shopping and do not wear expensive jewellery etc.
- Do not accept food and drink from strangers; visitors have known to be drugged and then robbed.

## Road travel

### Travel times and distances

Kitale - Lodwar 298 km - 8 hours

Lodwar - Kakuma 120 km - 2 hours

Kakuma - Lokichoggio 95 km jV 1hour 20 min

Lokichoggio - Nadapal (border) 25km - 45 min

Mandatory precautions include:

- Use of four-wheel drive vehicles fitted with HF radios, in addition to cell phones and/or Satellite phones.
- All field vehicles should preferably have two spare wheels and First Aid kits.
- Armed Police Escorts are mandatory.

## Driving

- All of the roads in Northern Rift Valley are dry weather, dirt or tarmac roads. During the rainy season most are completely impassable due to lack of bridges. In a majority of places, roads are passing rivers through river bed.
- Always drive defensively, expecting the worst and from the most unlikely sources.
- Never drive a Vehicle when under the influence of Alcohol or any other intoxicant.
- Only properly equipped field vehicles can be used on official travel in North Rift Valley.

- Always ensure that your vehicle is in good condition.
- Take essential spares, some food and water.
- Note that Non-ILRI Staff are normally not allowed to travel in official UN vehicles. If they have to travel in the Vehicle, they must sign a disclaimer.

## Security

The main security concerns in the area are armed highway robberies, armed banditry in connection with cattle rustling and armed robberies in towns in nighttime. In Kakuma, there are problems related to the large refugee population.

There is a curfew is advised between 19:00 to 06:00 daily and similar timing is applied in Lodwar and Lokichoggio.

### **Banditry/armed vehicle attacks**

This is a common crime in the area. If you become the victim of a car hijacking or armed vehicle attack/robbery, do as you are told and do not resist the attackers. Do not attempt to escape them by driving fast. If you comply, there is every chance that you will be released unharmed.

The best precaution one can take is to use armed police escorts at all times. The police escort vehicle should preferably travel in front of your vehicle and the distance should be maintained about 50 meters.

### **Thefts**

When at a hotel/guest house ensure that you keep briefcases, handbags and small luggage with you as these items are attractive and have been stolen from staff while these were busy. Always ensure that items which are attractive and valuable are kept out of sight.

## Hotels

The following hotels/guest houses are recommended  
Kakuma

In Kakuma there is no hotel or guesthouse which could be recommended to ILRI staff. Only accommodation in UNHCR/IOM, WFP and LWF Compounds are recommended.

Lokichoggio

AFEX (Africa Expedition Ltd) Camp

Hotel 748, Manager- 0720772334

## Emergency numbers:

UN Control Room - Gigiri (020)7622999/ 2344/6666  
0720629999/0733629999

Hospitals  
Kakuma Mission Hospital

## Further information or assistance

### **ILRI Kenya Security Helpdesk**

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